

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING
ADDICTION DISORDERS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method for treating an addiction disorder (such as an addiction to or dependency on stimulants, nicotine, morphine, heroin, other opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, and/or alcohol) in a patient is disclosed. The method includes administering to the patient a first $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist and administering to the patient a second $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist. The second $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist is different than the first $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist, and the first $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist and the second $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist are administered simultaneously or non-simultaneously. Compositions which include a first $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist and a second $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonist are also described. Examples of suitable $\alpha_3\beta_4$ nicotinic receptor antagonists for use in the present invention's methods and compositions include mecamylamine, 18-methoxycoronaridine, bupropion, dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof. A method of evaluating a compound for its effectiveness in treating addiction disorders is also described.